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SENTINELS

Grey the day above Birdoswald ;
  The wind comes to the Wall
As from northward moors in motion—
  Heather seething in the fall.

Where the Roman's spear was grounded,
  No more the sentry stands,
Midway 'twixt his strong "mile castles",
  Time upon his hands.

Midway 'twixt the strong "mile castles",
  In the still fosse I lie,
With a thistle's spear above me
  Pointing at the sky.

JOHN HELSTON.

London, England.